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NEWS RELEASE

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American Bar Association Honors District Court Judge Hayashi

Judge Leslie Ann Hayashi, District Court of the First Judicial Circuit (O'ahu), will receive the 2003 Franklin N. Flaschner Judicial Award at the annual American Bar Association (ABA) meeting in San Francisco in August 2003. The ABA Judicial Division National Conference of Specialized Court Judges gives the annual award to recognize an outstanding judge serving in a court of limited or special jurisdiction.

The recipient must exemplify the high ideals, personal character, and judicial competence of the late Chief Judge Franklin N. Flaschner of the District Court of Massachusetts, and have made significant contributions in improving judicial education and advancing the quality of justice.

Hayashi was commended for her reputation as being a judge who has a "special ability to make defendants feel at ease in the courtroom." She was also cited for her service on numerous committees. Since 1992, she has co-chaired the Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts whose mission is to promote fairness in Hawaii's legal system and to increase access to the justice system through outreach and education.

Hayashi has written numerous brochures and video scripts as well as produced videos on jury trials and district court procedures, many of which have been translated into other languages. She also worked on the LawLine project, a 24-hour service providing pre-recorded telephone messages on various legal topics, some of which are available in other languages.

Hayashi was also commended for her efforts in educating other judges. Since 1995, she has served as a faculty member of The National Judicial College, where she has trained judges from across the country. She has assisted in training Hawaii's judges and hearing officers.

A past president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Hawai'i State Bar Association, Hayashi received its Justice Award in 1995. She was also the past president of Hawai'i Women Lawyers and was honored as its Woman Attorney of the Year in 1989.

Hayashi, who was retained last October for her third six-year term, graduated from Stanford University and Georgetown University Law Center.

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